

66.





*As the Old Patriarch we in Scripture find } So Big Vanella with a Serious Air
Of seeming Sheep by Art the Breed Confin'd } Veins ev'ry Feature with Attentive Care
And made his Lambskins o the mottled kind. } To give her coming Boy his Fathers Princely Stare*

THE
FAIR CONCUBINE;

OR THE
Secret HISTORY

Of the BEAUTIFUL

VANELL A. *friend*

CONTAINING,

Life of Vanella
Her Amours with *Albimarides*, P. *Alexis*, &c.
Her Departure from the Court. The Particulars of her Settlement. An Account of several curious Incidents that happened in the Course of her Rivalship with Miss *Mordantia*. Faithful Copies of several of her Letters, particularly one to P. *Alexis* on her first finding herself Pregnant; and another to the Q ——— concerning her Condition; together with all other remarkable Occurrences thro' the whole Course of her Intrigues.

To which is annexed,

The Lady's Last Shift; or, a Cure
for Shame. A TALE.

Dedicated to Five Honourable Maids.

The Fourth Edition.

L O N D O N.

Printed for W. JAMES, without Temple-Bar.

M, DCC, XXXII.

(Price One Shilling.)

W. Musgrave.



(v)



T O

Five Hon. MAIDS.

LADIES,



T your Feet I lay the following Treatise, and humbly implore you to take it under your Care and Protection, for Reasons which you may very well guess, and there is no Necessity for mentioning them. The Story, tho' brought from another Country, is literally true, and is pretty near upon a Parallel with a certain young Lady,

B

whom

vi DEDICATION.

whom Love and Beauty has rendered odious to Virtue; and therefore, as Tenderness and Compassion glow in your Breasts, so I hope you will pity the poor *Vanella*, that fallen Angel, who sacrificed her Fame and Reputation to *Cupid*, and shipwrecked her Virtue in his Cause.

WHAT an imprudent Part has she played? Could she not *dance without paying the Piper*? But in good truth, she *jigg'd* it about to some Tune. You very well know, Ladies, that if every Body's Faults were printed in their Foreheads, Vizors would be more in Fashion than Hoop Petticoats; and tho' you might wink at *Vanella's* Frailty, yet I am persuaded you will censure her Conduct in not guarding herself against a Discovery. Lud! Lud! I warrant you that the poor Girl was hugely afraid of *leading Apes in Hell*; but as well to avoid that cursed Fate, as likewise dreading the Thoughts of losing her *Teeming Time*, she resolved not to live an *Od Maid* in this World, and therefore ventured, like a *Virago*, to be made a *Woman*; and so prevent the Oidium and Disgrace which her own Sex would

DEDICATION. vii

would cast upon her, and the malicious Treatment of our's.

I A M ready to acknowledge, that *Vanella's* Indiscretion was great: But then consider, fair Ladies, that your Sex is naturally weak. The *Falling Sickness*, you know, is an hereditary Distemper in most Families; it was the first Disease that crept into the World, and Mother *Eve* was the first Person whom it seized. If therefore our Lawyers will allow Custom and Prescription to be good Pleas, *Vanella* surely might plead best in her Justification. Ye Honourable Maids are also sensible when Temptation is strong, Desire inflamed, Youth pressing, and Opportunity inviting, 'tis no easy Matter to resist the CRITICAL MINUTE, especially when Virtue, which should have guarded, has deserted Love's *Portal*, and left it open for the Besieger to *Enter* whenever he is inclined to do it. Some have capitulated upon honourable Terms; others, knowing the Generosity of the Enemy, have surrendered at Discretion; and a generous Foe has often proved kinder to the former than to the latter.

B 2

YOU

viii DEDICATION.

YOU will say, perhaps, that the *Fair Concubine* ought to have been more prudent than to let the Burliness about her Hips, and the Shortness of her Petticoats disclosed what she had been doing. But I appeal to all the *knowing* Part of your Sex; I appeal even to yourselves, whether you believe it possible to abstain from returning *Love for Love* in the CRITICAL MINUTE? For then the Senses are in a Rapture, and the Thoughts of what may be the Consequence of the amorous Encounter are swallowed up and lost in the Extasy of Love Enjoyments. There is no Room for *Forecast* at such a Juncture, and the Mind is so closely employed about the *Time present*, that the future cannot be consulted; but supposing that Lovers should be so prudent as to gratify one another by Turns, ye will allow, surely, that a Moiety of the *Fruition* is wanting, and that it is but an *Half Pleasure* at best. Can ye not tell by Experience that there is Harmony in a *Concert*, and that it ravishes the Senses, which a single Person, tho' his Instrument be never so good, cannot effect?

IF

DEDICATION. ix

IF any of you have done the *Paw Thing*, you must needs own what I have just now asserted to be true, and impute it not to Discretion or prudent Management that ye have escaped the publick Shame which beset *Vanella*; for some Women, like some Fields, are barren through Frigidity, but when that Cause is removed, by using proper Methods, they will soon grow prolific, and very probably produce Fruit *meet for Repentance*.

VANELLA was not the first, nor will she be the last, young Creature that has given a Loose to Love: Court Ladies, who have had a larger Share of Understanding, and more advanced in Years, which should have taught them Wisdom, have been seduced, and I need not go out of this Kingdom for Examples.

WE have an *English* Proverb which says, *There is no harm done when a good Child is got*. If this holds true, then the Memory of *Vanella* will smell as sweet as a Violet. And let me assure you, that a Woman, born of noble
Pa-

X DEDICATION.

Parentage, and debauched, even by a Person of Quality, if she has Wealth at command, values not what malicious Tongues say of her.

CONSIDER, Ladies, that *Virtue* and *Chastity* are the brightest Jewels that can adorn a Woman; their Value is inestimable, their Loss irretrievable: Consider therefore, and consider seriously, in what great Estimation you ought to have them. But if, after all the Advice and Admonition that has been given you, if ye prove deaf to sage and good Counsel, if ye will turn Retrograde, and follow *Vanella's* Example, yet buoy not your selves up with the vain Expectation of having as good Provision for ye, as she has. Settlements are precarious Things, and it will be too late to insist upon, or demand honourable Terms, when ye are in the Hands of the Enemy; you must rely then upon his Munificence, and be subject to his Will and Pleasure when he has you in his Power. If therefore ye are determined to dispose of your precious Jewels, besure to oblige the Purchaser to pay ready Money, or at least to give ye good Security; if ye act otherwise,

DEDICATION. xi

therwise, then to your irretrievable Loss, will be added Folly and Indiscretion, ye will give the World just Cause to laugh at your Imprudence, and condemn your Simplicity.

I am,

With profound Respect,

L A D I E S,

Your most faithful Counsellor,

Your most humble and

Most obedient Servant,

The AUTHOR.

To

DECLARATION

Whereas, one to your jurisdiction
will be added by and Jackson
you, we will the said John
TO HAVE AS THE FIRST AND CON
LAWYER OF THE



JOHN J. J.



To the READER.

AS no Care or Pains have been spared in collecting Materials from the best and most approv'd Authors for furnishing the following Account of Vanella's Life; and as I have not wilfully omitted any one Point or Circumstance that is of any Moment to her Story, so likewise there is nothing here inserted but what was found in the Records of Time. If the Histories from whence I have taken these Collections are spurious or defective, the Charge ought to be laid at the Doors of their Authors; but there seems to be so much Veracity in them, that no one I believe will make a doubt of their being genuine.

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BEAUF

BEAUTY may very well be compar'd to Riches, neither of them is pernicious in itself, but the general Consequence of both are Presumption, Pride, Arrogancy, Concupisence, wicked Pleasures, and unsatiable Desire of encreasing that Portion which People have in Possession. The Truth of this Assertion is confirm'd by daily Experience, and I may say, that Beauty in a Woman, if not accompanied with a more than ordinary Share of Virtue, for the most Part terminates in her Ruin; for though she may indulge her Fancy with the Thoughts of captivating and securing the Heart of the Man she loves, yet it too frequently happens that Beauty renders a Woman miserable and contemptible; For, as the Poet sings,

BEAUTY's a gaudy Sign, no more
To tempt the Gazer to the Door;
Within the Entertainment lies,
Far off remov'd from vulgar Eyes.

And

And when a Man has possessed her, he values her Beauty no more than as it conduces to encrease his Lust, and give a double Relish to Fruition. This was the Case of Vanella, who, if she had preserved her Chastity, might have enjoy'd all the Felicity that this World could afford; but she who was an Angel of Light is now become an Angel of Darknes, and the Stain of her Reputation is indelible. Thus we see that Beauty is rather a Curse than Blessing, and how mortifying must it be to a beautiful Woman, when she finds herself forsaken, even though she has Youth on her Side, and beholds her Lover raveling and wantoning in the Embraces of another, who is older, and not near so handsome as she.

THE Reader will find many Transactions in this History, which have been kept secret by Art and Industry; and though he must needs applaud the Generosity of Prince Alexis, yet he cannot in Justice vindicate or countenance his Behaviour

baviour to Vanella, whose Fame is so much tarnished, that it can never be brought to its former Lustre. Her History contains many uncommon and surprising Adventures, but as she abused the good Nature and Indulgence of her Royal Mistress, her Fall and Disgrace, has rendered her less pittied.

Having stript her of her Græcian Habit, I here present her to you in an English Dress; not pompous and gaudy, nor yet abject; but in such Apparel as may not create a Disgust in those who are nice and curious, nor cloy and surfeit them who keep a just Medium between real Love and Luxuriousness: and I heartily wish that Vanella's Misconduct may be a sufficient Caution to other young Ladies not to fall into the same Snare.



THE



T H E
F A I R C O N C U B I N E .



THO' *History* and *Biography* may appear to be *Twin-Sisters* in the Eyes of some People, yet their *Affinity*, if there is any between them, is remov'd to a far greater Distance than they are aware on ; for *Historians* treats of Things and Times in general, and seldom descends to Particulars ; but *Biographers* are oblig'd to recite the most minute Transactions of the Persons whose Lives he writes, if it be of any Women, or may be conducive to illustrate the Work which he undertakes. I take it for granted, that *Vanella* will be miserably maul'd by the *Coquets* of this Age, and undergo the *Lash* of the *Prudes*, from whose Hands no *Quarters* can be expected, though (notwithstanding their formal Pretensions

tensions to Sanctity and Devotion) they are guilty of the like Crime, and reiterate it, as often as they have an Opportunity of doing it.

THE World Expects an Account of every Person who is become notorious for good or bad Actions, and as the Generality of Mankind is for reading the *vicious* rather than the virtuous Part of a Woman's Life, I thought it may not be improper at this Time to gratify their Inclination by introducing *Vanella* upon the Stage, and present her to them in her natural Colours.

AGIS King of *Lacedemonia*, was a magnanimous and virtuous Monarch; he married *Elóisa*, the Daughter of a *Gracian* Prince, and their Nuptial Bed was grac'd with a numerous Issue. *Alexis*, his eldest Son, was educared in sound Learning and moral Principles, and being Heir Apparent to his Father's Kingdom, had, when he arrived at the Years of Maturity, an Apartment allotted to him, and an Appendage sufficient to support the Grandeur and Dignity of his Birth.

QUEEN *Elóisa* was a Lady of strict Piety and Virtue, and took into her Train six young Ladies, among whom *Vanella* was one, and the Queen had a more than common

mon Regard and Compassion for her, on account of an unhappy Indisposition which her Father, a *Græcian* Lord, labour'd under. She was young and beautiful, had a competent Share of Wit and good Sense, but took too much Freedom in her Conversation, which becoming habitual, proved to be the Destruction of her Character and Reputation. Her Levity was conspicuous to every one, and it had taken such deep Root, that neither Example nor Precept could eradicate it; therefore to prevent, if possible, the fatal Consequence which was apprehended might ensue, it was judg'd proper to provide a Husband for her, and a Match was propos'd between her and *Leonides*, who was a *Lacedemonian* Lord, and had been a Commander in the Army. But it fortunately happen'd for him, that before the Treaty of Marriage was concluded, he was sent Ambassador by his Royal Master to adjust the Difference that arose between two Neighbouring Potentates; and there we shall leave him and return to *Vanella*.

SOME Historians, whom I have consulted for the more regular Formation of this History, seem to question the Veracity of what their Predecessors have alleg'd in Vindication of every particular Expression and Passage contain'd in the following Paragraphs, but allow the whole in general to be

be genuine; I have therefore chose to insert them, since they do not carry a Face of Impartiality, and leave to the Reader to form Judgment of them as he shall think proper.

THIS young Lady had a Multitude of Admirers, and among the rest who made their Addresses to her, *Albimarides*, a young Nobleman belonging to King *Agis*, had the first Place in her Affection. His Levity was upon a Level with hers, which principally recommended him to her good Graces; she esteem'd herself to be the happiest Person upon Earth while she was in his Company, and thought he could not be too frequent in the Repitition of his Visits, tho' he was at the same time paving a Way for her Ruin. Love was the Topick by which he insinuated himself into her Favour, but alas! *honourable Love* was a Stranger to his Heart; for he used it as a Cloak to cover his libidinous Designs. They grew so very familiar, that she indulg'd him in all the Liberties he was pleased to take, one only excepted, and it is possible she would not have denied him *That*, had he *pushed hard* for it; but in a small space of Time he accomplished it with much Facility.

COMING one Evening to her Apartment, he surpris'd her as she sat musing in
her

her Bed-Chamber, but when the Fit was over, they renewed their Custom of toying together; and leaning his Head on her Bosom, she putting one Hand about his Neck, and stroking his Face with the other, he took a Paper out of his Pocket, on which the following Lines were written, which he sung to her.

*WHAT is Beauty, but a Gin
To ensnare and trap Folks in?
Cupid's Net to catch a Heart,
Natures Picture without Art;
With the Lilly joins the Rose,
Stronger Charms their Union shews;
Now they bloom, and now are gay
Like the wanton Month of May:
But when Age begin t'appear,
And the Autumn does draw near,
Beauty sickens at the Sight,
Then she dreads approaching Night;
Wan and languid are her Eyes,
Weak her Power did surprise,
All her boasted Charms decay,
Rose and Lilly fade away.*

ALBIMARIDES sung the Words with so much Humour that *Vanella* resolved to have them though she paid ever so dear for the Purchase; and he perceiving that her Resolution was unalterable, determined to have a valuable Consideration for them.

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To

To this End he artfully kept her in suspense for some time, now seeming to gratify her Desire, and then again to put her off with feigned Excuses, all which tended only to make her more eager to obtain them. *Hark, you, my Lord*, says she, patting him on the Face, and alluring him with her Blushes, *give me the Song, and we will take the Pleasure of looking Babies in one another's Eyes.* *Faith, Madam*, answered *Albimarides* with a smiling Countenance, *there is a great deal more Pleasure to be found in getting of Babies.* *It may be so truly*, reply'd *Vanella* very demurely, *but let us leave this idle Talk, and give me the Song, for I will have it do what you can.* Thereupon she snatched the Paper out of his Hand, and put it into her Bosom. *Nay*, says *Albimarides*, *if you will take it by Force, you shall take something else in the like Manner.* He then took her in his Arms, and having almost smothered her with Kisses, laid her upon the Bed, and she finding him preparing the Way for Enjoyment, said, *O Lud! O Lud! What are you doing?* My Maid's in the next Room, and will hear us; *O fy, fy, my Lord*, pray now forbear, you will ruin me,——*Oh! Oh!* I shall be undone for ever,——*I swear I will cry out,——Oh! Oh!*——Whether the Extasy was so great she could not cry out, or whether he prevented her, by reiterated Kisses, I will not take upon me to determine, it is certain that

that she soon grew as tame, and lay as quiet as a Wife.

HISTORY informs us that his Lordship *crack'd the Shell*, but makes no mention of his having *found the Kernel*, so that we are left in the dark in Relation to that particular Point; we are likewise left to ourselves to guess how often he rallied and repeated the *Onset* before he retreated out of the Field.

VANELLA perceiving the Hour to draw nigh when she must appear at Court, was oblig'd to change her Headcloaths, which was very much ruffled by *Albimaries*; and when he appeared among the Ladies, any body who had been so curious, might have perceived that the young Lord and she had been doing what was not justifiable, for her guilty Conscience flew in her Face when he came near her, and discovered it self with frequent Blushes. However, she got the upperhand of it at last, and carried herself in the best Manner she was capable of doing; and though she trembled at the Thoughts of his speaking to her, yet she greatly desired it; but she was very much vex'd when she saw him converse and take a more than ordinary Liberty (as she imagined) with the other young Ladies. Not able to curb her Jealousy, she approach'd

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and

and made one among them, then with a kind of haughty and disdainful Air, said, *Ladies take care how you converse with the Lord Albimarides, he has a soft, bewitching Tongue sufficient to delude a Vestal Virgin. You speak very feelingly, Madam,* says one of the Ladies, whose Name was *Medosaria*, and we hope he has not deluded you; but we thank you for your good Advice, and in my Opinion no-body is so capable of shewing where the dangerous Rock lies, as the Person who has been Shipwreck'd upon it. Truly, replied *Vanella*, with all the Arrogance imaginable, *I did not direct my Discourse to you, Medosaria; but since you have taken a Freedom that does not become you, I must tell you plainly, that no Man will venture a Shipwreck with you, or even to go on board your Vessel, which sails so very awkwardly, and is so wretchedly built, that she will not answer the Helm.*

HOW far they would have carried their Resentment, had they not been interrupted by the Queen *Elóisa*, who was going to take the Air, and on whom they were obliged to attend, no body can tell; however their Discourse having been buz'd about the Court, soon reached the Queen's Ear, who reprimanded the two Antagonists in a very kind and maternal Manner; and as she was all Goodness in her self, she took all the

Care

Care imaginable to breed up the young Ladies in virtuous Principles, and to prevent any Jealousy that might arise among them on Account of who had the greatest Share in her Favour, for she treated each of them alike. This is an Example, which, as it is wanted in most Families, 'tis hoped will be followed by every one.

WHETHER the Queen suspected that *Vanella* had play'd a *Slippery Trick*, or that her Beauty might entice some of the Courtiers to make unlawful Addresses to her, and be the Occasion of her Ruin, is hard to determine; but certain it is that she sent for *Vanella* privately, and among many other Questions which she put to her, demanded to know if the Lord *Albimarides* had a mind to seduce her to a Violation of her Chastity? *Vanella* was so surpris'd at this unexpected Question, that she could not readily give an Answer; but as soon as she recovered herself from the Confusion she was in, she said, *Madame*, as your Majesty has done me the Honour to admit me into your Family, and have used me with the Tenderness and Affection of a Mother, my Duty obliges me to give you all the Satisfaction that I am capable of in this particular; I beg leave therefore to declare to your Majesty, that the young Lord *Albimarides* never offer'd any thing that was rude or dishonourable.

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The Queen, not doubting the Veracity of what she said, seem'd to be well satisfied, and told her by the by, that she could not with Honour retract from the Match with *Leonides*, which was in effect as good as concluded. To this *Vanella* answered, *Madam*, I have a great Value and Respect for *Leonides*, but as I always shewed an Aversion to that Match, except only a seeming Compliance, which filial Duty extorted from me, I hope I shall be held excusable if I refuse to make us both miserable, which would be the certain Consequence of such a Marriage; in my humble Opinion there is too great a Disparity in our Ages, which is the only Objection I raise, believing that Lord *Leonides* would be a very good Husband, and make any other Woman happy.

THE Queen did not urge this Affair any farther, but dismiss'd *Vanella*, having caution'd her in the most friendly Manner, not to make a false Step, or do any Thing that might bring a Blemish on her Reputation.

AS soon as *Vanella* came to her Apartment, she sent for *Albimarides*, to whom she related all that had pass'd between the Queen and her, and told him she did not question but her Majesty would talk to him about it, and therefore thought proper to forewarn him, that he might be prepar'd with

with an Answer, if the Queen should ask him any Question. *Albimarides* approv'd her Conduct; and taking her in his Arms, repeated Kisses prevented her from uttering one Word; then using a Familiarity not proper to be related, she disengaging her Lips from his, said, *What, my Lord, will you not give over 'till you have ruined me for ever? but I fear you have already done it, and how can I resist the Man who has disarm'd my Heart?* The Reader may guess the Consequence; for as the Poet very pathetically expresses it,

*What followed next was past the Power of
Verse,
Beyond the reach of Fancy to rehearse.*

WOMEN have naturally a Tenderneſs and Affection for the Perſon who ſpoils them of their Virginity, and there is nothing more common than when they have gratified the Inclinations of the Man they love, to permit him to reiterate them as frequently as he deſires, eſpecially if he has exerciſed himſelf ſtrenuouſly. This we ſee verified in *Vanella*, who was no leſs than a Slave to the Libidinous Deſires of *Albimarides*.

IN a little time this young Lady's Countenance began to grow pale and wan; and
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her fainting Fits at Court, which appear'd the more visible, as she took the greater Pains to conceal them, together with several other Symtoms, occasion'd it to be whisper'd about that she was Pregnant. This News was sweeter than *Nectar* and *Ambrosia* to the two young Ladies, *Medosaria* and *Mordantia*, who were her Rival Companions, and envied her on account of her Beauty, feared that one Day or other she might engross the Favours of *Alexis*, as she had already secur'd those of *Albimarides*: And truly it must be confess'd that *Vanella's* bright Charms would have melted the frozen Heart of an Hermit, and obliged him to sacrifice at her *Shrine*, nay to have offered a whole *Hecatomb* at her *Alter*, had he been so well provided.

VANELLA seeing she was nearer the Time of her Delivery than she imagined, kept her Bed one Day to consider what Method she should take to conceal her big Belly; and as she had confin'd her self to her Apartment, it gave Birth to various Speculations. Queen *Elôisa* having been inform'd that the young Lady was very much indisposed, ordered her own Physicians to attend her, and make their Report next Day, which they failed not to do, and gave it as their Opinions that the Country Air would very much conduce to the Recovery of her Health

Health; and thereupon she sent one of her Ladies to charge *Vanella* in her Name not to get out of Bed 'till her Majesty came, which would be in the Evening.

THIS you must needs think was a great Surprise to *Vanella*; but it is impossible to comprehend the Confusion she was in, when she saw Queen *Elóisa* approached her Bed-Side, who commanded her to relate the Cause of her Grief without any Disguise or Subtlety. *Madam*, said the trembling *Fair One*, if I had taken Warning by the *Moth* which plays about the Candle till it has burn'd its Wings, I should not have been in this Condition; but I have play'd the Fool with a certain Lord too long, and now he flights and contemns me, and does all that lies in his Power to make me become the Jest of *Medosaria* and *Mirdantia*. I heartily wish, answered the good and sage Queen, that you have not been *playing something* else with him; I am loth to give Credit to what is confidently reported; but if you have been so imprudent as to make a false Step, I advise you to repent of your Error. In the mean Time I lay an Injunction upon you not to receive a Visit from him, or converse with him, either personally, by Message, Writing, or otherwise, without my Approbation. She then was graciously pleased to give her the best Counsel, with Directions

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rections for her future Behaviour; adding, that the Physicians judg'd it proper that she should go into the Country, and if she thought she could bear the Fatigue of a Journey, the sooner she began it, the greater Benefit she would receive by it.

AS soon as *Vanella* could equip herself with such Necessaries as she might want, she arose very early one Morning, and walking about a Mile from the Palace of *Lacedæmonia*, found a Chariot waiting for her, and several Servants well mounted and arm'd, who escorted her to a Sea-port Town about 30 Leagues distance from thence.

HERE she led a kind of recluse Life, seldom going abroad but for the Benefit of the Air; but complaining one Evening of a violent Pain in her Back, she had the good Fortune to have it *in her Arms* before the Morning.

AS soon as she recovered her Strength and Complection, she went to a City about ten Miles from the Place where she had *laid in*; but what became of the Babe, or whether it was Male or Female I cannot take upon me to ascertain, History being deficient therein. Here was a vast Concourse of Nobility and Gentry, and *Vanella* appeared every Day in Publick, and resorted to

to all their Plays, Sports, and Pastimes, on purpose to be taken notice of, for she hop'd thereby to obviate the Malice of her Enemies. Perceiving most of the Company to withdraw from thence, this young Lady likewise set out for *Lacedemonia*, and, upon her Arrival at Court, met with a generous Reception; even her two inveterate Rivals *Medoseria* and *Mordantia*, with unparallel'd Hypocrisy, congratulated her upon her Return, and the Recovery of her Health. But their Cob-web Net was too thin not to be discover'd, and too weak to hold *Vanella*; however, assuming a careless Air, she thanked them for their Civility, then turning short, and looking upon them with Disdain, she joined in Company with the Court Ladies.

SHE now shines with double Lustre to what she had done before, and was more beautiful (if possible) than the celebrated *Helen*. She was inform'd one Day that Prince *Alexis* design'd to make her his Mistress; this pleased her exceedingly, and she determined not to be too easy in giving her Consent, lest it might pall his Inclination, and give him Occasion to have the less Value and Respect for her: nor yet dally with him too long for fear he might forsake her, and take to another, but observe a due Decorum and Medium between the two Extrems.

KING *Agis* went to *Rusticate*, at a small Seat which he had purchased, delightfully situated on a large and pleasant River. He took his Queen and Family with him, with necessary Attendants; and riding abroad one Day to take the Diversion of killing some Game in one of his Parks, and being very intent upon the Pursuit of his Sport, Prince *Alexis* soon prevail'd with *Vanella* to retire with him to a Covert; here he dismounted, and fastening his Horse to a Tree, as he had also done the young Lady's, he took her from her Saddle, and led her to a Bank of Dazies, in the Midst of a pleasant Grove, where they sat secure from the scorching Beams of the Sun.

HERE they spent several Hours to their mutual Satisfaction, in kissing, toying, and Love Embraces; insomuch, that the Evening was pretty far spent, before they were aware of it. This filled them with some perplexing Thoughts, but making a Virtue of Necessity, the Prince plac'd *Vanella* on her Horse, and mounting his own, they rode directly to the Park-gate, which, to their great Surpise, was lock'd, and no body attended to open it. The Prince calling to Mind that there was a House at a small Distance, which had a Passage into the Road, galloped thither with his Mistress, and both alighting

alighting, they knock'd at the Door. No body was at home but a Servant, who looking out of the Window, and seeing Prince *Alexis*, and a Gentlewoman with him, hasten'd to let them in. He put up their Horses, and ask'd if they would please to drink a Glass of Wine, for he could furnish them with as good as any in *Greece*. To this they consented, and went up Stairs into a Room, where they continued till the Evening grew dusky ; then, according to what had been agreed on between them, *Vanella* took a By Road which led her to the Seat of King *Agis* ; and then the Prince ask'd the Servant if he knew who he was ? the Fellow answered, *It is not my Business, Sir, to know any Gentleman, who is not willing to be known.* *Alexis* was very well pleased with this Answer, and rewarding the Fellow went to his own Country-house, and soon after he came home, proper Servants were sent for the Horses.

WHEN *Vanella* came to her Apartment, she made what haste she could to dress herself in order to appear before her Royal Mistress ; but *Medosaria* and *Mordantia* being sworn Enemies to this young Lady, and having vowed to work her Overthrow (tho' all their Schemes were of no other Effect than to promote the Interest of *Vanella*) went privately, under a Pretence of a Visit, hoping

hoping, however, not to find her within, and then would have had a plausible Reason to say that she had been with the Prince, for they were missed much about the same Time. They also dispatch'd a Messenger to the House of *Alexis*, but were miserably balked in their Expectations: For they found *Vanella* sitting on a Couch, with a Book in her Hand, and Word was brought them that the Prince was at Dinner. They were extreamly vex'd at these Disappointments, for though they had substantial Ground for Suspicion, they could not by all their Stratagems make a Discovery; yet *Mordantia*, filled with Rage and Envy, very pertly said, *Madam, What is become of the Prince?* *Vanella* replied, *When I am made Keeper of the Prince, I shall then be able to answer such an Impertinent Question; but I suppose, Madam, you are very well satisfied that Prince Alexis is now at Dinner.* This was a Mortification to *Mordantia*, who concluded that *Vanella* had overheard what the Messenger had told her; and resolving, if possible, to irritate her to the highest Degree, said, *Allow that you are not the Prince's Keeper, but I suppose you would willingly be kept by him. If that should ever come to pass,* replied *Vanella*, *I do assure you I shall not be jealous of YOU; for I believe Prince Alexis has a better Taste than to change a Peach for a Quince. Truly, Mordantia, all your Arti-*
fices

faces will not avail you; I can see through them, and must tell you, that you were not cut out for a Petticoat Plotter.

MORDANTIA, imagining that *Vanella's* Words glanc'd strong at her, though they seem'd to be pointed at *Medosaria*, arose from her Chair, and with Indignation in her Countenance, said, *I think it is very proper that we take leave of the Lady, otherwise she may grow Angry, and then how will she be able to entertain the Prince, from whom I suppose she expects a Visit after Dinner?* To this *Vanella* answered, *If Prince Alexis will do me somuch Honour, my Duty obliges me, even though Inclination were wanting, to give him the civilest Reception; but, Ladies, as such a Sight would put you into the most bitter Agonies, I advise you to retire in Time. Envy is a corroding Cancer in the Mind, and furrows many a handsome Face even before the Autumn of Life draws near; not that I think it can do any prejudice to you, Mordantia, you may still proceed in following the Example of the Viper in the Fable, and gnaw the File till you break every Tooth in your Head. But that ye both may have something to Employ your Thoughts for a while, I desire you to remember, that Venus carried off the golden Prize, and that Paris, who gave it her as a Reward which her Beauty justly claimed, was the Son of a King: But mistake me not, for*
there

there is no Room to infer from hence, that I think either of ye a Juno, or a Pallas, though you may call the former your Patroness, who, if Fame may be credited, founded the School wherein poor Mortals learn Billingsgate Rhetorick.

THE Season of the Year advancing which invited the Nobility and Gentry to breath the Country Air, King Agis removed with all his Court to one of his Palaces, situated at some Distance from *Lacedemonia*. Prince Alexis, having a strong Desire to make an Experiment of *Vanella's* Sincerity, thought that the best Method he could take, was to give her Cause to be jealous; to effect this he talk'd very freely with *Medesaria* and *Mordantia*, and to the latter, when in Company one Evening with *Vanella*, he made a Present of a *Gold Box*, inlaid with the richest Jewels: Nay, History tell us, that he proceeded to a farther Length, he attempted a Peasant's Wife to his Embraces, who being obstinate in her Refusal, and he earnestly insisting on a Compliance, she at last called out, and alarm'd her Husband, who came immediately to her Relief. They either did not, or would not know who he was; and therefore handled him in a very rough Manner, which soon reach'd the Ears of *Vanella*. She now became extremely jealous

Jealous, and not able to retain her Mind any longer, wrote him a Letter to the following purpose.

My dear Prince,

“ **K**INDLY receive this Letter, which
 “ comes from her whose Soul you
 “ have set on Fire, and who wishes to
 “ live no longer than she proves constant
 “ to you. Happy, thrice happy I was
 “ when in my Arms you panting lay, and
 “ spoke a thousand pretty Things to me.
 “ Our mutual Love produc'd mutual Joys,
 “ nor did we think ourselves lavish therein.
 “ But now Millions of Furies invade my
 “ Breast, ten thousand anxious Doubts
 “ disturb my Mind, and Night and Day I
 “ can find no Peace. *Rage and Jealousy*
 “ domineer and play the Tyrant over me
 “ by Turns; methinks I am the Laughing-
 “ stock of the Court, and when I approach
 “ my *Royal Mistress*, my Heart conscious of
 “ it's Guilt is struck with a panick Fear,
 “ and when I retire, burning with an eter-
 “ nal Flame, I find my Apartment, which
 “ was my Paradise when you were there, is
 “ now become a Hell. O *Alexis*, the Tortures
 “ of a Rack are nothing in Comparison to
 “ what I feel; yet these, and more than
 “ these, I suffer for your Sake. Tell me,
 “ dear Prince, what have I done; what
 “ Cause

" Cause have I given you to forsake me?
 " can *Medosaria* vie with me for Nobility
 " of Birth, or *Mordantia* stand in Competi-
 " tion with *Vanella* for Beauty? why then
 " am I slighted and they carress'd? how
 " often have you told me that I had a Mul-
 " titude of Charms, and that the *Graces*
 " were proud of their Attendance on me?
 " Is it then possible that you can con-
 " descend to sollicite a *Plebeian* Marron,
 " the Wife of a poor Peasant, to grant you a
 " Favour, which *Venus*, if she were on Earth,
 " would be proud to grant you? I have a
 " thousand Things to say, but my Spirits
 " fleet so fast, that my trembling Hand can
 " only let you know, except I see you
 " quickly, the next News you hear will be
 " the untimely Death of the forsaken and
 " distracted,

VANELLA.

THE Prince was sensibly affected with
 this Letter, which gave him great Uneasi-
 ness, and being now convinc'd of *Vanella's*
 Sincerity, wished that he had not put it to
 the Test; but to comfort the young Lady
 in her Affliction, he sent word by the Per-
 son who brought the Letter, that he would
 not fail of complying with what she seem'd
 to desire.

IN

IN the Evening Prince *Alexis* visited *Vanella*, who, as soon as she saw him, arose from her Couch, but her Joy was so great that she fainted, and had certainly fallen on the Ground, if the Prince had not saved her by catching her in his Arms, tho' she soon recovered her Senses, yet it was sometime before she could speak to him; he perceiv'd that she endeavoured to do it, but her Words could find no Utterance. The Prince seeing the Condition she was in, caress'd her most affectionately, and us'd the tenderest Expressions imaginable; in the mean while her Eyes were fix'd upon him; she often sigh'd and groan'd, grasped his Hand fast, and at last, struggling hard to declare her Mind, recovered her Speech, and spoke to him after the following Manner.

O my Prince, I know not which is greatest, the Torments which you created and I suffered, or the Joy I now receive from your Arms. Believe me, my *Alexis*, I was upon the Verge of Despair, and should have cast my self into the Bottomless Gulph, had you not prevented me by your verbal Answer to my Letter; and now your Presence enlivens my Hopes, and bids me live. Methinks that I am just awaken'd from a most tedious and frightful Dream, and I am resolutely determined that Nothing, but the like Occasion, shall disturb my future Peace and Tranquility. To this

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the

the Prince replied. *I do assure you, Vanella, I will never give you a second Cause to complain, and what I have done was only to try whether you were Sincere in your Love and Friendship for my Person, of which I am now fully convinc'd. You must needs own, replied Vanella, that it was a very severe Tryal; but, my dear Prince, your kind Promise, and the Assurance you give me that you'r satisfied with my Sincerity, have doubly recompenced all my Sufferings.*

PRINCE *Alexis*, to divert *Vallens*, shifted this melancholly Scene, and making Love the Subject of their Discourse, they spent several Hours in the most agreeable Manner, and to the great Joy and Satisfaction of each other. During the Residence of King *Agis* in the Country, they carried on their Intrigues as plausibly as the Nature of the Affair would admit; nor did they desist upon the Return of the Court to *Ladedemonia*.

IN a few Weeks *Vanella* became pregnant, which, as it encreased every Day, she could not conceal from the prying Eyes of *Mordantia* and *Medosaria*, and as she was passing by these two young Ladies, when they were talking together, the former said to her, *I think, Vanella, you grow fat and lean like the Rabbits, but with this Difference, that their*
Change

Change happens in one Month, and yours in nine. *Vanella*, without Hesitation, made Answer, If I do, *Mordantia*, you must acknowledge that I keep my Fat much longer than you did the Gold-Box; and let me tell you, there is one you know, that would number herself among the happiest Persons on Earth, if her Condition could suffer a Change; she has try'd to effect it, but the Labour was lost on both Sides, for there are some Creatures in the World who are naturally Barren. For my Part, I freely own, that if Prince Alexis had made me a Present of a Ring, a Box, or a Watch, neither Threats or Promises should have prevailed on me to affront him so grossly as to return it after I had kept it a While.

HEREUPON *Vanella* withdrew, and sending for one who was her Confident, they consulted on what Method they should take, and at last concluded to retire to a Country Village named *Egaira*, about five Leagues from *Lacedemon*: Soon after her Departure she wrote a Letter to Queen *Elóisa*, in the *Lacenic* Style, and to this Purpose;

Most Gracious Madam,

“ I BEG leave to inform you, that I am
 “ with Child by Prince *Alexis*; for
 “ which Reason I have retired from Court;
 “ and think it not proper to return till I
 have

“ have *Laid in*, or some Provision be
 “ made for me ; which is certainly very
 “ requisite.”

THE Queen was greatly surpris'd when she read the Letter, and sending for the Prince, shewed it to him, and asking whether the Contents were true, the Prince bowing with profound Reverence and Respect, answered in the Affirmative ; the good Queen chequed him for being guilty of such a Crime, but a Reconciliation was soon brought about.

VANELLA, sending for her Uncle, revealed every Thing to him, who undertook to pacify the Lord her Father, and re-establish her in his Favour ; and when he had effected this, he hired a House for her ready furnished in the *Basilican Square*, to which she returned, and she had as much Attendance as any Person of her Rank and Quality could desire.

AS soon as it was rumoured that *Vanella* had taken a House, several of the Court-Ladies, and others of the greatest Distinction, came to visit her ; some out of Curiosity, and others who had a Friendship and Value for her, to condole with her in the *unhappy* State she was in. But she, not daunted at what they said, with a magnanimous

nimous Heart told them, she look'd upon her self to be in the *happiest* Condition of any Woman upon Earth, which she would not change with any Subject in *Lacedemonia*; for she had a large Share of the Prince's Favour, and esteem'd it more Honour to be with Child by him, than to be made a Dutcheß. *Alexis* came frequently to her House *incognito*, and being now under no Apprehension of an Interruption, they enjoyed each others Company with double Pleasure. When *Vanella* perceived that the Prince was delighted with her big Belly, she smiling said, I hope, that in a short Time I shall be able to send you the joyful News of the Birth of a Duke; to which the Prince answered, Such News, *Vanella*, will be acceptable to me even at Midnight, and especially if it be accompanied with an Information of your being in as good Health, as can be expected from a Person under the like Circumstances with yourself. *Vanella* thanked him for his kind and tender Expressions, and said, She would do herself the Honour to take Care he should be punctually obey'd in every thing; adding, that she requested him, in Case she should die in Child-Bed, to make a handsome Provision for the Infant, whether Male or Female, which he promised should be certainly performed.

THE

THE *Græcian* Historians do further observe, that so great was the Goodness, and so very wonderful the Condescension of Queen *Elóisa*, that she permitted herself to be prevail'd upon to let *Vanella* attend her in private one Day after her Departure from Court, *Vanella* having a strong Desire to pay her Duty and Respect to her Majesty, and to submit herself entirely to her.

BUT now I shall consider the Historian's Account of a Settlement said to be made by Prince *Alexis* for this *Fair Concubine*, and that is as follows, *viz.* Forty thousand Crowns to purchase Plate, and furnish a House for her; Eight thousand Crowns *per Annum* during her Life; and four thousand Crowns more *per Annum* during the Pleasure of the Prince.

AT the Time of this History being sent to the Press, *Vanella* had about two Months to go, as she *reckon'd* herself; that is, she expected to be brought to Bed in the fifth Month in the Year.

THE House which was taken for *Vanella* not being so convenient as was expected, her Sister-in-Law, being reconciled to her, hired another, which they went about to furnish with all Expedition; Plate was

was brought, many Hands were employ'd in making *Child-bed Linnen*, a Nurse was provided, and she wanted nothing that was requisite for a young Lady in her Condition.

THE Vacancy, occasion'd by *Vanella's* withdrawing from the Court of *Lacedemonia*, was soon fill'd up, and so great was *Mordantia's* Interest, that she was put in Possession of the Apartment which her Rival had possessed; tho' this was some Comfort to her, yet she had the Mortification to find, that by all her Plots and Contrivances, she could not eject *Vanella* out of Prince *Alexis's* Favour, and *Worm* herself into it. However, she would not Despair, for she believed that if *Vanella* should die in *Child-bed*, she might rivet herself in the Prince's good Graces: and if she recover'd, then she hoped in due Time to make him Jealous, and by abandoning the beautiful *Vanella*, she might supply her Place.

JEALOUSY is without Doubt a Sort of Plenty in the Mind, and hurries those whom it has seized to unwarrantable Lengths; the Methods they pursue to ruin their Rivals, generally end in their own Destruction, and as it has the greatest Power over the Minds of Women, so its Strength is manifested to be the strongest, when the contending Parties are of a superior Rank and

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Station

Station, and the Object of their Desire moves in a Sphere much lighter than their own. They adore and gaze upon the *rising Sun*, till its Lustre first dazzles, and afterwards deprives them of their Sight; The *Eagle* alone can, with Safety, behold its radiant Beams; *Vanella* was that *Eagle*, she could tower aloft, bask in its Bays with Safety, and wanton in its Meridian Glory. But, alas! her plotting Rivals were oblig'd to pore upon their Mother Earth, and receive such Comfort from her at Second Hand, as the *enlivening Sun* was pleas'd to communicate to them.



The



The Lady's last Shift; or a
Cure for Shame.

A T A L E.

VENUS of Love and Beauty Queen,
Inspire my Verse, direct my Pen,
That it may fair *Vanella* shew,
Lovely as thee, and Wanton too;
In Pride of Youth, and Beauty gay,
As *July* ripe, as sweet as *May*.

Fortune favouring still the Fair,
Took young *Vanella* to her Care,
Plac'd *her* amidst the Joys of State,
Where Pomp and Pleasure on *her* wait,
And Threw — to make *her* Bliss compleat,
Even great *Alexis* at *her* Feet.

Who doth not gay *Alexis* know,
By Birth a Lord, by Dress a Beau,
So form'd to give Love's fierce Alarms,
That all to him resign their Charms.

Proud if their Beauty can subdue,
 Him whom the Nymphs with *Envy* view;
 Towards whom each am'rous *Fair-one* turns,
 For whom the Courtly Circle burns.
 And full as much Complaisance *shew*.
 As if in a *Seraglio*.

But bright *Vanella*, lucky Maid,
 To love *Alexis's* Heart betray'd,
 For *her* set out with Care to view,
 His powder'd Front, and *stiffen'd Cue*.
 The Youth the Darling of the *Fair*,
 Despising them, had fix'd on *her*,
 His Eyes where-e'er *her* Charms they met,
 With a peculiar *Stare* were set,
 With languid Looks on *her* they roll,
 And speak the Passion of his Soul;
 Each Word, each Act, his Love proclaim,
 And Sighs half breath'd fan the soft Flame.
 At last——For Silence had been vain,
 He told the *Fair-one* all his Pain;
 How much his Heart was in her Power,
 And what from Scorn he should endure.
 But the *bright Nymph* had ne'er design'd,
 To be to such a Youth unkind;
 Charm'd with his Title, Pomp and Shew,
 Charm'd with the Lord, and with the Beau;
She to *Alexis's* Passion gave,
 All that his warmest Wish could crave.

The

The *beauteous Creature* thus enjoy'd,
Grew some spiteful Folks, say cloy'd.

But *ill-luck* did at last prevail,
Here comes the *Burthen* of my *Tale*;
Vanella now began to swell,
And Love by its Effects tell
At *her* Wits end to him she flies,
There Raves, and Sighs, and Stamps, and
(Cries;

While poor *Alexis* knew not how,
T'appease *her*, or what best to do.
At length the enamour'd *Pair* agreed,
From Town *she* should depart with speed;
And lie *in cog* till *she* had brought,
The smiling *Issue* of *her Fault*;
And then—quoth He—my Love again,
Shall shine the *brightest* of the Train,
My Power shall still protect *thy Fame*,
And Greatness leave no Room for *Shame*.

Ye *Fair Ones* from *her Fate* be Wise,
Since now *detected* all Despize,
That Beauty which before did prove,
The *Butt* of Envy and of Love,
Yet if her Name ye would obtain,
Your Search give o'er — since it is *Vain*.

F I N I S.

Lately Published, Price One Shilling.

THE Pall-Mall Miscellany. Containing, many curious Pieces in Prose and Verse; with Variety of new Songs, adapted to old Ballad Tunes and Country Dances. Amongst about 20 others are the following, viz. 1. The Rape of the Golden Hair; or, The Defeat of P. Alexis by the Miller's Wife. 2. The Tryal of Mr. Harvey of Chippenham in Wiltshire, for having Criminal Conversation with the Wife of Mr. Gouldney, an Attorney of Chippenham aforesaid. Tryed at the Sittings of the Common-Pleas, Westminster, on Friday, January 28. 1731-2, for which the Plaintiff recovered 1000 l. Damages. 3. The Lucky Dwarf; or, the Marriage of a young Lady-Lord to a Carbuncle rich Heiress. A Ballad. 4. The Maiden-Wife; or, Nature Padlock'd; being a curious Poem on a certain young Dutches who was made a Woman by Art, and restored to her Duke some Time after Separation. 5. Advice from L. H—y to Miss M-d-ws. 6. The Six frisky Maids; or, the Amours of P. Alexis. A new Ballad. 7. A new Court Ballad. 8. The Chaste Lovers; or, Kissing more Substantial than Coition. 9. On discovering a Maiden-Lady sleeping with her Face veiled in a Morning. 10. Two Satyrs on Marriage; and one on a Female Mischiefs-maker.

*As in a Landskip, here you see,
Depicted in Epitome,
Variety of Forms and Matter;
Here Humour, Wit; there Spleen and Satyr;
And if with these I cannot win ye,
Why then I say the Devil's in ye.*



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